

D. Remarks

The claims are 57-63, 65-69 and 71-80, with claim 57 being the sole independent claim. Claims 64 and 70 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 57 has been amended to include the features of claim 70. Claim 79 has been rewritten to depend from claim 57. Figs. 26-29 have been amended to include a label "Prior Art". No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

The Examiner objected to Figs. 26-29, alleging that they should be labeled "Prior Art".

In response, Applicant submits herewith replacement drawings, which label Figs. 26-29 as "Prior Art". Therefore, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 64 and 79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite.

Since Applicant cancelled claim 64, the rejection of this claim is moot. With respect to claim 79, Applicant has amended it to depend from claim 57. Since the Examiner advised the undersigned in a telephonic interview that such an amendment would be sufficient to address the rejection, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claim 70 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended the sole independent claim 57 to include the features of claim 70. Since all claims now depend from claim 57, they are seen to be in condition for allowance.

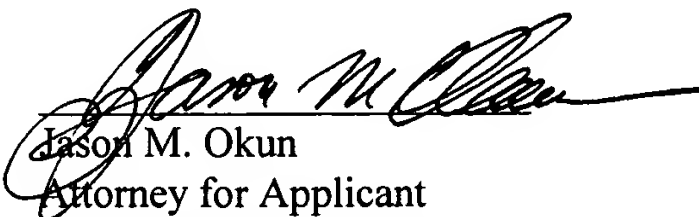
The Office Action entered rejections of claims 57-69 and 71-80 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,614,781 (Spindt) or 5,083,058 (Nonomura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,721,050 (Roman) and EP 0 851 458 (Shibata) under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,654,321 (Smith). Since all claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Wherefore, allowance of the claims and expedient passage of the present case to issue is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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B. Drawings

Please replace Figs. 26-29 with attached new Figs. 26-29.